

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-20 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 7, 13, 15, 17, and 18 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, and 15 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objected to paragraph 1 of the specification because U.S. Patent Application No. 10/083,463 has issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,639,430. (*See*, Office Action at ¶ 1.) Accordingly, Applicants have amended paragraph 1 to refer to U.S. Patent No. 6,639,430.

The Office Action also objected to paragraph 93 of the specification because the reference numbers for "M₁" and "M₂" were incorrectly stated as, respectively, "308" and "310". (*See*, Office Action at ¶ 1.) Accordingly, Applicants have amended paragraph 93 to state the reference numbers for M₁ and M₂ correctly as "306" and "308".

Objections to the Drawings

The Office Action objected to Figures 2A, 2B, and 3 because they lack a legend indicating that they illustrate prior art. (*See*, Office Action at ¶ 2.) Accordingly, Applicants have amended, in a Request to Approve Proposed Drawing Corrections filed herewith, Figures 2A, 2B, and 3 as recommended by the Examiner to include the legend "Prior Art".

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejected claims 1-12, 15, and 16 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. (*See*, Office Action at ¶ 4.) Specifically, claims 1, 4, 7, 10, and 15 were rejected for use of the phrase "capable of". The Examiner considered this phrase indefinite and recommended replacing it with "for". The Office Action rejected claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 16 because they depend from claims 1, 4, 7, 10, and 15. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 7, 10, and 15 as recommended by the Examiner to replace the phrase "capable of" with "for". Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove his rejections of claims 1-12, 15, and 16 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Pelley

The Office Action rejected claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,551,641 to Pelley, III (hereinafter "Pelley"). (See, Office Action at ¶ 6.) Applicants traverse these rejections.

Amended independent claim 13 recites (emphasis added):

A reset circuit for a latch circuit having a bistable pair of transistors connected to a supply voltage, the reset circuit comprising:
a first transistor connected to the supply voltage;
a second transistor connected between said first transistor and a first port of the latch circuit, ***wherein a gate terminal of said second transistor is connected to a drain terminal of said second transistor***; and
a third transistor connected between said first transistor and a second port of the latch circuit, ***wherein a gate terminal of said third transistor is connected to a drain terminal of said third transistor***.

Pelley does not disclose, teach, or suggest a reset circuit having transistors with gate terminals connected to drain terminals. Therefore, Pelley does not anticipate claim 13. Likewise, claim 14, which depends directly from claim 13, is not anticipated by Pelley. Claim 14 is also allowable because of its additional distinctive features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove his rejections of claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) with respect to Pelley.

Matsuya

The Office Action rejected claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,191,624 to Matsuya (hereinafter "Matsuya"). (See, Office Action at ¶ 6.) Applicants traverse these rejections.

Amended independent claim 15 recites (emphasis added):

An analog-to-digital converter, comprising:

a comparator having a first input for receiving an analog signal and a second input for receiving a reference signal, said comparator for producing a digital signal;

wherein said comparator comprises a latch circuit having a bistable pair of transistors coupled between a reset circuit and a first supply voltage, and a vertical latch coupled between said first supply voltage and a second supply voltage and coupled to said bistable pair of transistors, said vertical latch having a first transistor coupled to said bistable pair of transistors and ***a second transistor coupled to said first supply voltage but isolated from said second supply voltage.***

Matsuya does not disclose, teach, or suggest a vertical latch having a transistor that is coupled to a first supply voltage but isolated from a second supply voltage.

Therefore, Matsuya does not anticipate claim 15. Likewise, claim 16, which depends directly from claim 15, is not anticipated by Matsuya. Claim 16 is also allowable because of its additional distinctive features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove his rejections of claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) with respect to Matsuya.

Double Patenting

The Office Action rejected claims 1-7 and 17-20 "under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type patenting" with respect to claims 1-5, 8, and 11 of commonly owned U.S. Patent No. 6,639,430. (Office Action at ¶ 8.) Applicants have filed herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate a Double Patenting Rejection Over a Prior Art, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

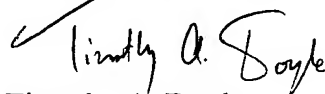
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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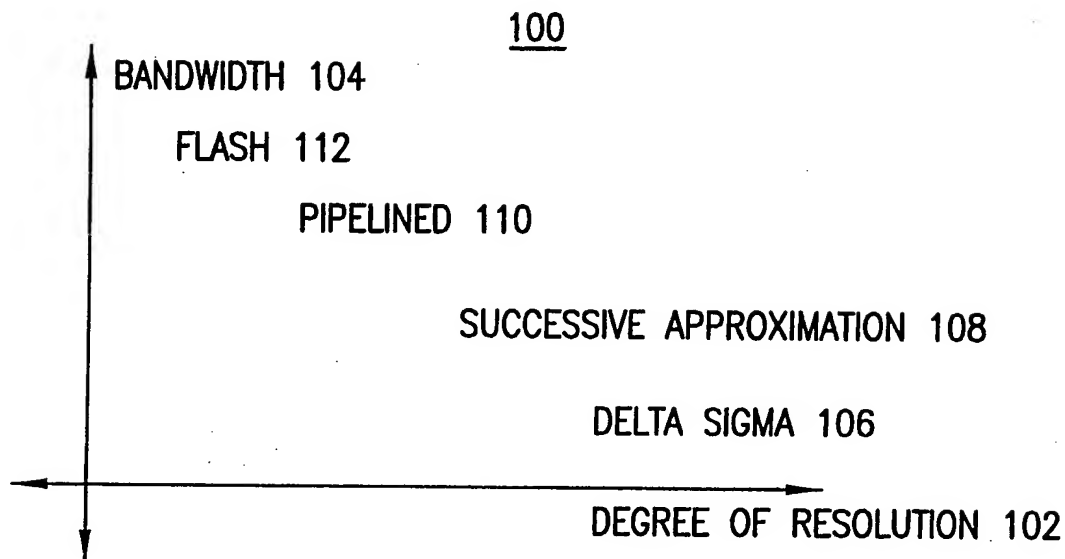


FIG.1

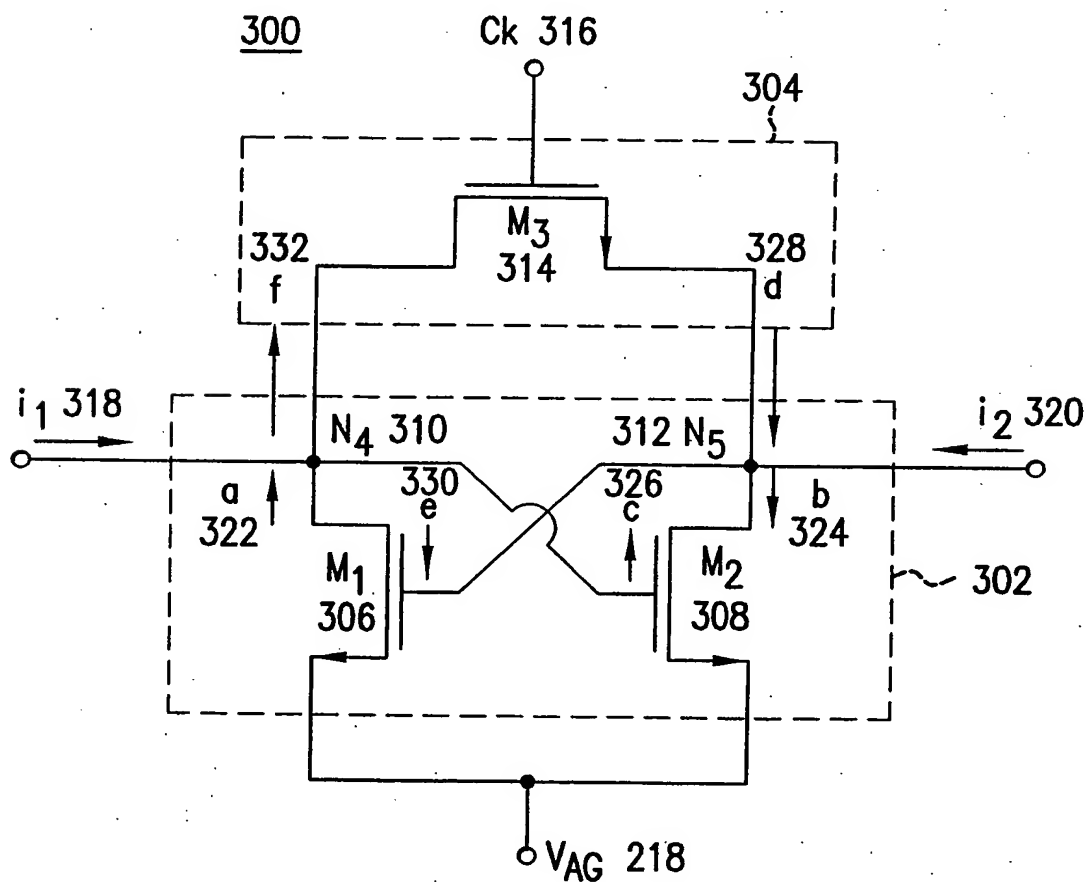


FIG.3

PRIOR ART

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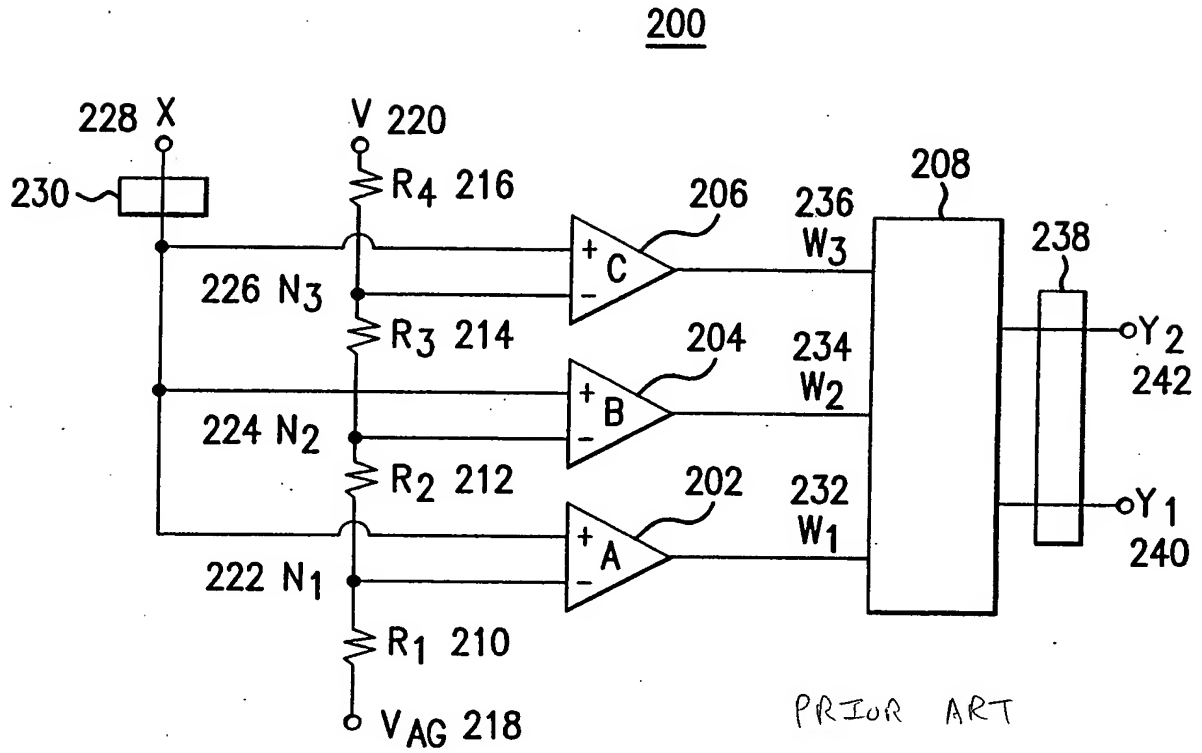


FIG.2A

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W ₃	W ₂	W ₁	Y ₂	Y ₁
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	1
0	1	1	1	0
1	1	1	1	1

PRIOR ART

FIG.2B